

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 1908.

Love is a flower, the seed of which is brought by the wind, and flowers where it drops.—Baltore.

THE BATTLE NOT ALWAYS TO THE STRONG.

Editor of Times-Dispatch, Richmond, Va.

Sir:—There seems to be a widespread belief that the next Democratic presidential election will go to Mr. Bryan. This belief appears to be based on the argument that Mr. Bryan's following is large enough, under the two-thirds rule of Democratic conventions, to prevent the nomination of any other candidate, and that he is the only course open to the party is to nominate Mr. Bryan. Consequently the majority of the party leaders throughout the country, believing that Bryan's nomination is a foregone conclusion, are unwilling to sacrifice their own influence by attempting to organize against him.

To the student who is familiar with the history of Democratic conventions, the nomination of Mr. Bryan, however probable, is by no means a foregone conclusion. Take, for example, the convention of 1844. Martin Van Buren, who succeeded Jackson in the presidency, was nominated in 1849 for a second term, but defeated by Harrison. Immediately after his defeat, he was the canvass for a third nomination, and in the four years that followed Democratic conventions in twenty-four of the twenty-six States declared in his favor, and in the last of the conventions his instructions their delegates to vote for him. The nomination appeared to be his beyond a doubt, but the opposition, though small, was determined, and he was defeated through a letter from Van Buren, published about three weeks before the meeting of the convention, that he was not in favor of the immediate annexation of Texas, the opposition went to work in earnest to secure a change in instructions, or to persuade delegates to disregard instructions. When the convention met in Baltimore, May 27, 1844, it was found that Van Buren had a large majority, but that the opposition proposed the adoption of the two-thirds rule, and with the aid of a number of delegates who were instructed for Van Buren, but who were not enthusiastic, it was adopted, and he remained in the convention until the Democratic conventions. On the first ballot Van Buren received 146 out of a total of 286 votes, but as the new rule required 173 votes for a choice, Van Buren was defeated, and the convention was adjourned. On the second ballot Van Buren lost ground. On the eighth ballot New Hampshire placed in nomination the name of James K. Polk, the first "dark horse," and on the ninth there was a stampede, and Van Buren received every vote in the convention.

When the convention of 1852 met, Lewis Cass, who had been the Democratic nominee four years before, was the leading candidate, but his first ballot, his strength gradually waned. On the thirty-first ballot the name of Franklin Pierce was introduced with the fifteen votes of Virginia, and on the forty-ninth ballot he received all the votes in the convention. The convention of 1856, owing to the conditions in the South, was hardly a representative Democratic body, but the ultimate nominee, Horatio Seymour, New York, who of previous years the convention, was not placed in nomination until the twenty-second ballot, when a stampede ensued, and he received an unanimous vote.

Let us apply the lessons of history to the present situation. A large majority of the Democrats of the country, for reasons already stated, undoubtedly expect to see Mr. Bryan nominated by the next convention. There is very little genuine enthusiasm for him in any section. How can there be enthusiasm for a man who has twice led his party to defeat, and who still advocates with an obstinate and fatal persistence issues that have never been regarded as dead beyond the possibility of a resurrection? Only last week Mr. Bryan is reported to have said in a speech at Danville, Ill., that there was not a plank in the Chicago platform that is not stronger now than in 1896. Unless Mr. Bryan can command two-thirds of the votes on the first ballot, he will lose the nomination, for he cannot afford, after being twice honored by his party, to resort to a policy of obstruction.

What are Mr. Bryan's claims on the Democratic party? The issue to which he consecrated his life, and which brought him into the Chicago platform, and with the collapse of that issue he should naturally have retired from the leadership of his party; but his remarkable gifts as a speaker enabled him to keep himself among the people, and to secure a second nomination. The campaign of 1896 should have been waged on the issues growing out of the Spanish War, and a man not identified with the silver issue put up to lead the fight. As for the fact that he was unwilling to lay aside the shibboleth of sixteen to one, there was another reason why Bryan was not the logical candidate for his party to name. He had gone to Washington at a critical stage of the discussion of the Spanish treaty and used his influence with Democratic Senators to secure enough votes to ratify it, on the plea that it was the only way of bringing the war to an end, and that the future of the Philippines could be settled in the next campaign. This step was a great mistake, for, as the events showed, it is far easier to start a war than to reverse it. As far as prolonging the war was concerned, Spain was in no condition to renew hostilities, and the United States could not have done so after rejecting a treaty, the terms of which had been dictated to Spain. Feeling that there was little logic in his being selected to wage the

fight against imperialism, Mr. Bryan demanded of the Kansas City Convention that it ratify the Chicago platform. In defiance of his wishes the party burdened itself with a dead issue, and went down in hopeless defeat. The convention did, indeed, declare that it ratified imperialism as the "paramount issue," but the nomination of Bryan belied the declaration, and forced the silver issue to the front. Many of the thoughtful and conservative men of the country, who were opposed to the military and colonial policies of the Republican party, were even more strongly opposed to the silver tenets of Mr. Bryan. Instead of a clean-cut campaign on the single issue of imperialism, which was new and of transcendent importance, attention was diverted to a threadbare discussion of monetary standards, so that to the conservative men of the country it seemed a choice between free silver and imperialism. Instead of putting the Republicans on the defensive by attacking their imperialistic policies, Bryan forced his own party to put itself in an antagonistic attitude on the silver question.

Mr. Bryan is possessed of an eloquence that would adorn the highest statesmanship; he is honest, patriotic and sincere. He is an excellent and an advocate, with the people as his clients, and, like the professional advocate, he stands ready to be retained in any cause his clients ask him to undertake. His present position, however, is the most essential element of statesmanship—the ability to distinguish between issues that are specious and temporary and issues that are real and permanent. He talks like a student, but he is not a student of trusts and corporations, about ultimate government ownership of railroads, about the initiative and referendum, but he discusses these measures without having subjected them to a serious analysis, and no one has succeeded in drawing from him any well-thought-out system or plan for putting any of these ideas into operation. His principles are not sound, and his advocacy is not disinterested. Most of the Roosevelt policies before Roosevelt took them up, Mr. Bryan has talked so much in the last twelve years and advocated so many things in a general way that he has lost touch with the details of the President probably has in it a measure of truth, but if there is anything the country is weary of just now it is the Roosevelt policies.

The object of this communication is to urge an expediency of the Virginia Democratic State Convention meeting early and expressing itself openly against the nomination of Bryan, or at least leaving its delegates instructed to vote against him. It is believed, in the present state of public opinion, make a profound impression and produce a change of sentiment in some of the other States. It is absurd to say that Mr. Bryan is overrated, and that the Democratic party is not only acceptable to the Eastern wing of the party, but he would carry more States in the West than Bryan. He can at least manage his own State, which is more than can be said of any other candidate. Fate may have in store for us a dark horse, and we want to give him a chance to come out. Prevent the nomination of Bryan on the first ballot, and he will be eliminated from the contest. If the South is ever to assert itself and cease to be a negligible quantity in national conventions, now is the time to act. Why should Virginia take the lead in electing delegates to send them to Denver uninstructed. They will be listened to.

Those of us who, for the sake of the grand old party, whose record in the history of the nation's progress, have twice supported Mr. Bryan as its nominee, demand of our party, and we feel that we have a right to demand, that it give us a candidate we can vote for with confidence. The convention we hold dear and the duty we owe to the nation. If the party can with impunity turn a deaf ear to a voice from the South, there are thousands of independent voters in the North and West who will never vote for Bryan and without whose votes no Democrat can be elected.

JOHN H. LATANE,
 Professor of History, Washington and Lee University,
 January 15, 1908.

Of course, the Virginia delegates to the national convention should not be hampered with instructions. They should be left entirely free to cast the vote of Virginia for the most available candidate, according as the situation at Denver may develop.

BUSINESS MEN SPEAK OUT.
 The Times-Dispatch has more than once expressed the opinion that the business interests of the country desired better railroad service rather than lower rates, and that, soon or late, that sentiment would be asserted. One night last week the Merchants' Association

Famous Words of Famous Men.

"Save Me From My Friends."

KING ANTIGONUS, about 310 B. C.

This familiar expression, common to all ages, has been attributed to many modern writers and persons of distinction by numerous reference books.

Duverniet, in "Vie de Voltaire," applies the words to that philosopher of latter day skepticism. "I pray God to deliver me from my friends; I will deliver myself from my enemies," is the comment which, according to Duverniet, the versatile Voltaire once made on his visitors at Ferney.

Another authority seems to give precedence, in the origin of the phrase, to the Marquis de Villars, the Duc de Villars—a French general during the reign of Louis XIV. On one occasion, when leaving the presence of the King to undertake some military duty, Villars reported to have said to his monarch, "I am going to fight your enemies; I leave you to fight mine in the midst of my own."

The famous saying is also well known in Italy. In the following lines, that are set in a wall on the road from Niev to Villa Franca, are quoted by Buchman, the German collector:

Da chi me fido
 Guarda mi Dio.
 Da chi non mi fido
 Mi guardo io.

(From him whom I trust may God defend me, from him whom I distrust I will defend myself.)

The same verse was found scratched on the wall of the dungeon under the Doge's Palace in Venice, by a German traveler, who gave a volume of ancient Arabic maxims, which seemed to have been issued back in the ninth century, the same sentiment is discovered.

"From my enemies I can defend myself, but not from my friends."

of Spencer, N. C., held a meeting, during which a movement was started to petition the Legislature, soon to meet in extra session, to repeal the 2-1-4 cent rate law, and give the roads a chance to improve their service. Our correspondent says that the sentiment of the Spencer merchants is shared by hundreds of other business men in the State.

In the same issue of The Times-Dispatch containing this statement appeared an Associated Press telegram from Austin, Texas, stating that the railroad commission had dismissed the motion to promulgate an order reducing passenger fares in Texas to 2-1-2 cents a mile.

Chairman Mayfield stated that he was convinced from the evidence submitted by the railroads that the present time was unfavorable to lower the fares in Texas.

The railroads are responsible in great part for the feeling against them. They seemed to court opposition and to invite hostile legislation; and they got both, with compound interest. It was a clear case of cause and effect. But with all their faults, the railroads are a part and parcel of our industrial and commercial system, and they cannot be crippled without crippling all branches of trade and industry. They cannot be separated and segregated as peculiar subjects for harsh discipline and freak legislation. They must not be allowed to discriminate against the people; but the people cannot afford to discriminate against them. The railroads must be conducted by the rules of business and must have the same opportunity before the law to succeed that other enterprises enjoy, or they will fail. And when they fail, the whole country will suffer.

That is the simple philosophy of the situation, and we believe that the people at large are fast beginning to realize it and govern their actions accordingly.

TAX ACCOUNTS.

The Salem Times-Register points out various difficulties in the way of the proposed measure to make each and every man's tax account rendered show the exact status of his standing with the State. We appreciate the obstacles, but we believe that expert book-keeping can overcome them all. Delegate Throckmorton, of Henrico, has prepared a bill on the subject which seems to us to be practicable, and we hope that it will receive the careful consideration of the General Assembly. The bill is too long to be outlined in these columns, but it has been prepared by a practical man, who has full knowledge of the subject, and apparently it meets every condition.

But whether or not Mr. Throckmorton's bill fits the case, no man can deny that the general proposition is sound. The State owes it to herself and to her citizens and tax-payers to keep an accurate and intelligent account with every man against whom she holds a claim, and whenever she gives him a receipted bill, it should be evidence on the face of it that it is a receipt in full to date of all claims against him or any property which he may possess. And it is no argument to say that this cannot be done because the process would be too tedious.

"WHY HE CAME."

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)
 "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."—1 Tim. i, 15.

"I know that there was manifested to take away our sins."—John iii, 5.
 "To save sinners." Could there be a briefer, a more explicit, or a more attractive statement of the aim of Christ's coming?

Who is a sinner? He is one who has missed the mark, has failed to fulfill the aim of his being; one who was created for a definite purpose and has not answered it; one who was designed for a certain work and end, and has neither done the one nor reached the other. That is to be a sinner.

The object of creation in all its parts is to manifest God. The material creation, in its marvelous structure, its manifold beauty, its wonderful combination of variety and order, its exact adaptation to the wants and enjoyment of its inhabitants, is a silent

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Meanwhile the gallant and oak-hearted snow-shovels of Old Virginia are eagerly waiting an opportunity to match their strength against Old Boreas.

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Governor Vandaman's term expired yesterday. Any annoying attentions from the second-term booniers.

Antigonus, one of the most powerful of the generals of ancient times, a successor of Alexander the Great, was born about 387 B. C. His biographers, outside of the occasional references by Plutarch, have not been numerous.

Antigonus became possessed of all Asia in the year 306, and he assumed the title of King. Plutarch says Antigonus was a man of enormous physical proportions, of great endurance and tireless energy. He was slain on the battlefield of Ipsus, in Phrygia, in his eighty-third year, and while still engaged in his life-pursuit—that of fighting his enemies. For it is related of Antigonus that he once commanded a sacrifice to be offered. He desired that the might protect him from his friends. When asked why not seek protection from his enemies, Antigonus replied:

but eloquent witness of the Hand that made and sustains it. It shows forth God in His power and wisdom, and best conception, as well as in the minuteness of His care. That part of creation has not sinned nor missed its aim. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handiwork."

But the rational, the moral, the spiritual creation—what of it? That part with which we are concerned, the race of man—what of it? Has it answered its purpose? Has it continued to reflect God's glory? Made in God's image, endowed with reason and conscience, and the knowledge of duty, with will and action, with the power to communicate with its kind, and of communion with God, having the favor of God proposed as its present blessing, and the presence of God as its eternal home—how has this privileged race conducted itself? In what condition do we behold it, and in what condition do we find ourselves? Broken loose from its orbit, gone from its proper centre, disloyal to its rightful owner, pretending to a liberty which is no honor and an independence which is no happiness, saying, "My powers are my own; who is Lord over me?" The creature is trying to live alone; it aims to be as God. Alas! poor human nature!

And if this be its state, what is its destiny? Can this disloyal, this rebellious thing be happy or useful here? Can it enter heaven?

Christ Jesus came to save such—to save sinners. But if we do not recognize ourselves in the description, if we do not feel that we have come short, then Christ does not come to us with the offer of His salvation.

"He was manifested to take away our sins." He knew what He undertook, and He has strength to perform it. Commit yourself to Him. Nothing is thrown upon us but that which the weakest and humblest may perform—to believe, to ask, to wait and to accept.

This promise of salvation is what we need—all of us. There is not one person who has not sinned. And there is not one moment in the life of any man when he does not need this gospel of God's grace.

We want it all the time. We need it to keep us from despair. "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—then to save me!

We want it for life—it is this only which makes life safe or sacred or happy. We want it most of all for death, which is so busy amongst us, and which gives so little notice. It waits not either for the comfort of the surviving or the repentance of the departing. If we would have it, then, we must find it now.

A deathbed may be a good ending, but a bad beginning for the work of grace. He who would die happy must first have lived holy.

"O Lamb of God! which takest away the sins of the world, take away my sin and make me pure."

The largest savings deposit bank in Texas has just gone into the hands of receivers. While sympathizing with the unfortunate depositors, we cannot forbear the hope that this will teach them hereafter to put their hard cash in institutions built on a rock. We may add that the bank of Royal Richmond, Prosperity's home address, offers unusual and splendid facilities for banking by mail.

We are surprised to note that Colonel Henry Watterson had gone to New York to hand out a speech or two. We had taken it for granted that the one of our own spending these January evenings at home, busily polishing up his senatorial courtesies.

"Six months from now we shall be knee-deep in June," points out the Rooster. Also, eight months from now we shall be breast-high in August, 14 months from now ankle-deep in March, 1909, etc., etc.

The most wonderful and magnificent garment in the world, says a floating paragraph, is the state robe of the Queen of Slam. Doubtless this is the garment the incumbent stole from the unsuccessful candidate.

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Rhymes for To-Day

SUCH UNRECONCILED.

SUCH a face to sit and stare at in a silent room as prayer,
 Such a smile to start a glory that was near too great to bear,
 Such a soul to burgeon beauty, such a heart for being kind,
 Such a little lady for the silent hand to find!

Give me peace, who point his mercy in his idle, cruel whim,
 Leave me he or I will make no peace with Him!
 I will yield him no weak praises for the holy way she trod—
 While my war-cry calls for fairness in whomsoever I call God!

Who would batter down the statue that a lifetime went to make?
 Who would risk the master's painting just to test the canvas break?
 What a sin to add one illy to the waste the sinner can vaunt!
 What a little, little lady for Omnipotence to want!

H. S. H.

ROYAL RICHMOND AND OLD VIRGINIA.

As we go to press the jury of awards unanimously decides that the old-fashioned racehobby country sausage of this country is the blue ribbon gold medal and the cash premium. The Virginia snuff and the Kentucky imitation have been embosomed and returned.—Houston Post.

The artless gentleman who was accepted on the Thaw case on his declaration that he had never heard of the case, only to be excused a little later, ought to be made acquainted with the blue ribbon gold medal and the cash premium. The Virginia snuff and the Kentucky imitation have been embosomed and returned.—Houston Post.

Have you heard the Byrd warbling from over Richmond way?—Roanoke World.

It is to be hoped the members of the Virginia society when Adam Bede comes, will not string him.—A. Journal.

The Washington Herald is the first newspaper to drag politics into the Paragraphs Union. It calls the Richmond chapter the "Pett Paragraphers' Protective Union, No. 1."—Richmond Dispatch.

The Charlottesville young lady who married the weather forecaster cannot say she regretted all her warning beforehand.—Atlantic City.

"Oh, Sarah, Jane, and Caroline. Just place your snow-white hand in mine." These justly celebrated, but lately hatched, "Three Wives" of the Richmond "Globe," by "Andrew Jackson Andrews, Composer," but perhaps it is hardly necessary to say so.—Charleston News and Courier.

Under the new Constitution of Virginia, a man is not entitled to vote who has been dead more than five years, but Chicago carries them on the payroll by the thousands to shovel snow during the summer.—Nashville American.

The milliners of New York, Washington, Richmond and other cities that desire to get to the real estate office of 1908 should make it a point to be in the city when the Paris milliners arrive. Houston's red-head milliners will treat all alike.—Houston Post.

Really the union ought to do something for the paragraphers of the Indianapolis News. There is no odor of blossoming orchards, or buzzing of bees, or even the slightest anticlimax in the paragraphing team in this doleful walk. "The long, a man lives the more he is convinced that the world is a better place than it brings is a new calendar with a different picture on it."—Nashville American.

Voice of the People.

The Times-Dispatch will print signed letters on questions which relate to the public welfare. Such letters should not exceed in length three columns, except on questions of importance, and should be signed with the full name of the writer, and should bear his or her address. The name of the writer will be withheld if desired.

Build First to Tappahannock. Editor Times-Dispatch:

Editor: It has occurred to me, and doubtless to many other thoughtful people when their attention is called to the subject, that the bill proposed by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad situation.

I understand that the bill referred to will require that the proposed road to Tappahannock be built before any other road is allowed to be built. The rights now enjoyed by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, which is the people's road, should be permitted to remain the old road to Ashland under the old charter, and the new road to go on to Fredericksburg before the purpose of the first charter, i. e., building to Tappahannock, is completed.

It is of more importance to the people that a railroad shall reach the Potomac Neck rather than an additional line to the capital, or the extension of the line to the Potomac. Why not complete one as a condition precedent to permitting the other.

R. F. & P. Matter.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—
 Sir:—Allow me to just a few lines to urge upon you the necessity of repealing the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac law. Not in a spirit of animosity toward the capital, but to go to the heart of the matter. It is a citizen of this city, how intimately the immediate future of Richmond is bound up in this question.

It is bound to finally come, you know that. Then why delay the opening up of new territory to Richmond and the development of the State for a period of time? The question comes to this: Is the interest of the R. F. & P. to be considered before the interest of Richmond and Virginia? Who for a moment can doubt but that a new connection for Richmond, better facilities for our commerce, new territory, new markets, are the interests of Richmond and Virginia?

Do not look up the future of Richmond with one connection to the North. Furthermore, any monopoly is distasteful to the American people and opposed to our principles.

If the R. F. & P. wins in this matter, instead of being a benefit to the State it will be a clog-upon the wheels of progress. Use your influence to give us better Western connections, Mr. Editor. We want the R. F. & P. and more. We want a dozen roads to the North to get the goods to the South. Yours truly,

JOBBER.

Pettibone in Jail. Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—

Sir:—Nearly two years ago, George Pettibone, of Colorado, was arrested on a charge of murder in the murder of ex-Governor Hiram S. Pitkin. After staying in jail nearly two years he was tried, found not guilty and acquitted. He came out completely broken in health, a physical wreck. Now, the fact that an innocent man can languish in jail nearly two years without a trial in this boasted land of liberty and enlightenment is a damnable outrage, and a shame and disgrace to the Commonwealth of the United States. Who is responsible for it? The fact that such a piece of injustice is possible in this country should open the eyes of the people, and they should protest most vigorously against it. If one citizen can be thus treated, then any citizen is liable to the same treatment.

Respectfully,
 Lynnhurst, Va. J. W. OGDEN.

Consult H. S. Brunot, of Jere de la Fronte, on the subject of the "Three Wives" of the Richmond "Globe," by "Andrew Jackson Andrews, Composer," but perhaps it is hardly necessary to say so.—Charleston News and Courier.

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Washington Snapshots and Sidelights

Time-Dispatch Bureau, Munsey Building, Washington, D. C., Jan. 18. It is just about time to register a sincere and altogether hearty kick against the manner in which certain demagogues in public life are seeking to keep the issue of temperance wave, and keep themselves in a preferred place by catering to a sentiment which they have always opposed by word and deed. In other language, the manner in which certain members of Congress, chiefly from the South and West, are rushing to the front to declare for prohibition of the sale of intoxicants in the national capital has disgusted many more respectable advocates of temperance living.